ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 883

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 883, a bill to authorize National Mall Liberty Fund D.C. to establish a memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia to honor free persons and slaves who fought for independence, liberty, and justice for all during the American Revolution.

S. 998

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 998, a bill to amend title IV of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, in the case of airline pilots who are required by regulation to retire at age 60, to compute the actuarial value of monthly benefits in the form of a life annuity commencing at age 60.

S. 1350

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1350, a bill to expand the research, prevention, and awareness activities of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health with respect to pulmonary fibrosis, and for other purposes.

S. 1670

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1670, a bill to eliminate racial profiling by law enforcement, and for other purposes.

S. 1993

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1993, a bill to posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Lena Horne in recognition of her achievements and contributions to American culture and the civil rights movement.

S. 2124

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2124, a bill to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to authorize and support the creation of cardiomyopathy education, awareness, and risk assessment materials and resources by the Secretary of Health and Human Services through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the dissemination of such materials and resources by State educational agencies to identify more at-risk families.

S. 2189

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2189, a bill to amend the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 and other laws to clarify appropriate standards for Federal antidiscrimination and antiretaliation claims, and for other purposes.

S. 3227

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3227, a bill to enable concrete masonry products manufacturers and importers to establish, finance, and carry out a coordinated program of research, education, and promotion to improve, maintain, and develop markets for concrete masonry products.

S. 3484

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Ohio, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3484, a bill to amend the S.A.F.E. Mortgage Licensing Act of 2008 to provide an exception from the definition of loan originator for certain loans made with respect to manufactured homes, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to modify the definition of a high-cost mortgage, and for other purposes.

S. 3522

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3522, a bill to provide for the expansion of affordable refinancing of mortgages held by the Federal National Mortgage Association and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation.

S. 3539

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3539, a bill to encourage the adoption and use of certified electronic health record technology by safety net providers and clinics.

S. 3565

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3565, a bill to eliminate discrimination and promote women's health and economic security by ensuring reasonable workplace accommodations for workers whose ability to perform the functions of a job are limited by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition.

S. 3614

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3614, a bill to establish a pilot program to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to make grants to nonprofit organizations to rehabilitate and modify homes of disabled and low-income veterans.

S. 3626

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3626, a bill to provide financing assistance for qualified water infrastructure projects, and for other purposes.

S. 3631

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3631, a bill to prohibit and deter the theft of metal, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 45

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 45, a joint resolution amending title 36, United States Code, to designate June 19 as ''Juneteenth Independence Day''.

AMENDMENT NO. 2874

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2874 intended to be proposed to S. 3525, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2902

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2902 intended to be proposed to S. 3525, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 3636. A bill to provide increased consumer protections for gift cards; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, as consumers shop for the holidays, more and more consumers are buying, giving, and receiving gift cards.

By one estimate, Americans spent over $100 billion on gift cards in the 2011 holiday shopping season, and that nearly $2 billion of that value went unused.

Today I am introducing legislation to help substantially remedy that problem and to ensure that consumers receive the full value that is stored on their gift cards.

Whether it is a bankrupt company that refuses to honor a gift certificate, a gift card with hidden fees that slowly withers down to nothing, or a ''promotional'' gift card that expires in the virtual blink of an eye, consumers in Connecticut and across the nation are in danger of seeing the value of their gift cards disappear.

The Gift Card Consumer Protection Act will stop these abusive practices.

This bill uses as a model or blueprint the Connecticut law that I advocated and helped write while serving as Attorney General, but it adds to protections provided by that state law and others.

This new measure enhances and expands gift card safeguards, particularly when gift card sellers become legally insolvent and seek bankruptcy status.

It will add strong new protections for consumers when a company goes bankrupt. Under this bill, a company that files for bankruptcy must immediately stop selling its gift cards and is required to honor existing gift cards until it goes out of business.

First, this bill will ban expiration dates and inactivity fees.

Connecticut gift card consumers have the benefit of clear and robust protections: their gift cards do not expire, and they do not carry any non-use or dormancy fees. These protections apply whether the gift card is purchased by a consumer or obtained as a rebate or bonus for the purchase of another product because in both situations, the consumer is relying on an expectation that the funds on the card will not expire and will not be depleted by fees.

As a U.S. Senator, I have often advocated for bringing Connecticut's strong consumer protection laws to the rest of the Nation, and that is what this bill does.

Under current Federal law, gift cards may expire after 5 years, and they be charged inactivity fees after 1 year. And loyalty, award, and promotional cards are not covered at all.

This bill would eliminate expiration dates and inactivity fees for gift cards, and it would include those protections for loyalty, award, and promotional gift cards.

This bill will give peace of mind and security to consumers when they purchase gift cards. They can shop with confidence, knowing that the money on their gift cards will not expire, will not diminish over time, and will not be refused if a company goes out of business.

I am grateful that many in the industry already follow these practices. Best Buy, for instance, doesn't charge fees on their gift cards and they do not expire. When you get a bonus card for a purchase, that card doesn't expire or carry fees, either. The same is true for Barnes and Noble, and others.

These practices should prevail uniformly for every company.

Unfortunately that is not the case. Some large companies assess inactivity fees after a year, others issue promotional gift cards that expire very quickly, sometimes as soon as forty days from the card's issuance.

The result is confusion and a lack of consumer confidence. ''Does this company's gift card have hidden fees? Does the money on this $20 bonus card last until I use it, or will it expire next month? This ad says I get a promotional gift card when I buy a new TV: does that mean it won't expire for five years, or will it expire in 30 days?''

The Gift Card Consumer Protection Act will address and dispel such doubt and confusion and make it clear that consumers who receive or buy gift cards whether by purchasing them directly or as part of a rebate or promotion need not worry about the cards expiring or being depleted by inactivity fees. It provides protections for gift card holders when a company files for bankruptcy protection.

The Gift Card Consumer Protection Act assures that consumers get their money's worth, no matter when they use the gift card.

I invite my colleagues to cosponsor the Gift Card Consumer Protection Act and ensure that gift card consumers do not see the value of their gift cards disappear due to unfair fees or expiration dates or a company bankruptcy.

By Mr. REID:

S. 3637. A bill to temporarily extend the transaction account guarantee program, and for other purposes; read the first time.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in teh RECORD as follows:

S. 3637

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. INSURED DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION TRANSACTION ACCOUNT GUARANTEE PROGRAM.

(a) EXTENSION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law that would repeal subparagraphs (B) and (C) of section (11)(a)(1) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1821(a)(1)) on January 1, 2013, such subparagraphs shall remain in effect until December 31, 2014.

(b) PROSPECTIVE REPEAL.—Effective on January 1, 2015, section 11(a)(1) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1821(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) by striking ''DEPOSIT.—'' and all that follows through ''clause (ii), the net amount'' in clause (i), and inserting ''DEPOSIT.—The net amount''; and

(B) by striking clauses (ii) and (iii); and

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''subparagraph (B)(i)'' and inserting ''subparagraph (B)''.

(c) COST RECOVERY.—The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (in this section referred to as the ''Corporation'') shall fully offset, in each calendar year, any estimated losses to the Deposit Insurance Fund established under section 11(a)(4) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1821(a)(4)) that may occur as a result of the amendments made under subsections (a) and (b) of this section, by—

(1) estimating the losses, if any, that are expected to occur for each calendar year; and

(2) collecting an amount equal to such estimated losses by September 30 of such calendar year, which shall be in addition to the assessments that would otherwise be collected by the Corporation with respect to such year for insured depository institutions (as defined in section 3(c)(2) of that Act (12 U.S.C. 1813(c)(2))) pursuant to section 7(b) of that Act (12 U.S.C. 1817(b)).

SEC. 2. INSURED CREDIT UNION TRANSACTION ACCOUNT GUARANTEE PROGRAM.

(a) EXTENSION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law that would repeal subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 207(k)(1) of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1787(k)(1)) on January 1, 2013, such subparagraphs shall remain in effect until December 31, 2014.

(b) PROSPECTIVE REPEAL.—Effective on January 1, 2015, section 207(k)(1) of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1787(k)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by striking ''(A) IN GENERAL .—'' and all that follows through ''paragraph (2), the net amount'' in clause (i), and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the provisions of paragraph (2), the net amount''; and

(B) by striking clauses (ii) and (iii); and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''subparagraph (A)(i)'' and inserting ''subparagraph (A)''.

(c) COST RECOVERY.—The National Credit Union Administration (in this section referred to as the ''Administration'') shall fully offset, in each calendar year, any estimated losses to the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund established under section 203(a) of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1783(a)) that may occur as a result of the amendments made under subsections (a) and (b) of this section, by—

(1) estimating the losses, if any, that are expected to occur for each calendar year; and

(2) collecting an amount equal to such estimated losses by September 30 of such calendar year, which shall be in addition to the assessments that would otherwise be collected by the Administration with respect to such year for insured credit unions (as defined in section 101 of that Act (12 U.S.C. 1752)) pursuant to section 202 of that Act (12 U.S.C. 1782).

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

S. RES. 600—SUPPORTING THE GOALS ND IDEALS OF AMERICAN DIABETES MONTH

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. AKAKA, and Mr. TESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (referred to in this preamble as the ''CDC''), nearly 26,000,000 people in the United States have diabetes and 79,000,000 people in the United States have pre-diabetes;

Whereas diabetes is a serious chronic condition that affects people of every age, race, ethnicity, and income level;

Whereas the CDC reports that Hispanics, African-Americans, Asian-Americans, and Native Americans are disproportionately affected by diabetes and suffer from diabetes at rates that are much higher than the general population of the United States;

Whereas, according to the CDC, someone is diagnosed with diabetes every 17 seconds;

Whereas, each day, approximately 5,082 people are diagnosed with diabetes;

Whereas, in 2010, the CDC estimated that approximately 1,900,000 individuals age 20 and older were newly diagnosed with diabetes;

Whereas a joint National Institutes of Health and CDC study found that approximately 15,000 youth in the United States are diagnosed with type 1 diabetes annually and approximately 3,600 youth are diagnosed with type 2 diabetes annually;

Whereas, according to the CDC, between 1980 and 2007, the prevalence of diabetes in the United States increased by more than 300 percent;

Whereas the CDC reports that more than 27 percent of individuals with diabetes are undiagnosed;

Whereas the National Diabetes Fact Sheet issued by the CDC states that more than 11 percent of adults in the United States and 26.9 percent of people in the United States age 60 and older have diabetes;

Whereas the CDC estimates that as many as 1 in 3 adults in the United States will have diabetes in 2050 if present trends continue;